

Appl.No.

Amdt. Dated May 26, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in
5 the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 10 1.(Currently Amended) A device ~~Device~~ for monitoring the application of a motor vehicle automatic parking brake, comprising driven means (10) [of] for applying at least one brake pad (2) to a brake disk (1), characterized in ~~that it comprises~~ by measurement means (5) for measuring a physical property of the pad (2), the value of which varies as a function of the a force ~~with which the pad is applied~~ through the pad (2) to the brake disk (1).
- 15 2.(Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to Claim 1, further characterized ~~by in that it comprises~~ comparison means (9) for comparing the measured values of said property with prerecorded values, these comparison means (9) being connected to means (10) for commanding application of the brake.
- 20 3. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that said physical property is an electrical magnitude associated with the conductivity or resistivity of the brake pad (2) and in particular of its friction lining (3).
- 25 4. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 3, characterized in that the material of the friction lining (3) of the pad (2) contains an addition of an electrically conducting component (C) in granular or powder form, such as copper or carbon black
30 for example.
- 35 5. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 3~~ claim 3, characterized in that the friction lining (3) of the brake pad (2) comprises a wear indicator (11) formed of an electrically conducting element embedded in the friction lining (3) and in that an electrically conducting component (C) in granular or powder form is added to the material of the friction lining (3) solely between the wear indicator (11) and a backing (4) to which the friction lining (3) is attached.
- 40 6. (Currently Amended) The device ~~Device~~ according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that it comprises claim 3 further characterized by a measurement apparatus (5), ~~such as including~~ a volt meter ~~for example~~, and an electrical supply circuit (6) which are electrically
45 connected to the friction lining (3) of the brake pad (2) and to a metal component ~~such as the brake disk (1) or a backing (4) of the friction lining (3) or to the vehicle electrical ground.~~
7. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ for monitoring the application of

a motor vehicle automatic parking brake ~~comprising by~~ driven means [of] applying a force through at least one brake pad (2) to a brake disk (1) mounted on a wheel of the vehicle, ~~characterized in that it essentially consists,~~ following a command to apply the automatic parking brake including the following steps: [in] measuring a physical property of the brake pad that varies as a function of the force with which this pad is applied to the brake disk (1);[, in] comparing the measurement with a prerecorded value; [and,] if the measurement is below the prerecorded value [, in] once again commanding again the application of the parking brake if the measurement is below the prerecorded value; and and/or in emitting a signal for the attention of the driver of the vehicle if the measurement is at the prerecorded value.

8.(Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 7, characterized ~~in that it consists in~~ by the step of: measuring said property of the brake pad (2) at different instants following a command to apply the parking brake, in comparing measured values with corresponding prerecorded values and in once again commanding the application of the parking brake if at least one of the measured values is below the corresponding prerecorded value.

9.(Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 8, characterized ~~in that it consists by the steps of:~~ measuring an initial value of said property before the parking brake is applied, measuring another value of this property while the brake is being applied by the driven application means[,]; and measuring another value of this property following mechanical locking of the brake and return of the application means to [the] a position of rest.

10.(Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 9, characterized ~~in that it further involves a subsequent by a further step of~~ measuring said property as the brake cools.

11.(Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 8, ~~9 or 10,~~ characterized ~~in that it consists in~~ further including the step of: comparing differences and/or ratios of the measured values of said property with differences and/or ratios of the corresponding prerecorded values.

12.(Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to ~~one of Claims 8 to 11,~~ characterized ~~in that it consists in~~ claim 8 further including the step of: measuring an electrical magnitude associated with the conductivity or electrical resistivity of the brake pad (2) or of its friction lining (3).